Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada

July 2005

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 15

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service

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Canada

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HELPFUL TIP:

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile Virus when bird-watching, hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure.

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The 2004 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp entitled "Silent Passage - Mallards" is by Canadian wildlife artist Michele Clarkson of Penetanguishene, Ontario.

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Editor:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Kathryn M. Dickson (CWS, National Office).

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB, E4L 1G6
Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC, G1V 4H5
Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON, M3H 5T4.
Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No.2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6B 2X3
Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2

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http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/birds/status/index_e.cfm

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The December report *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (Appendix B). These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. **In this case, the Canadian Wildlife Service will issue a bulletin updating these regulations.**

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June each year:

- Early November – The November report, containing biological information, is distributed by CWS-National Office (N.O.).
- November and December – Jurisdictions develop proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- December 13 – CWS Regions provide to CWS-N.O. the proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General for review, approval and translation.
- Early January – CWS-N.O. distributes the December report containing the regulation proposals, to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 22 – Replies from consultation are due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, who then ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Mid-January through mid-February – CWS Regions work with the provinces and territories to finalize the regulation proposals.
- March 10 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, are sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS-N.O.
- April through May – CWS-N.O. undertakes the process to prepare legal documents and obtain approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Final hunting regulations, adjusted if necessary to account for public comment, become law.
- July 15 – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post Outlets.
- End of July – CWS-N.O. finalizes the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.
- End of August – Regulation consolidations are available to CWS Regions.

Note to United States Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2005 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS - Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2005 is provided for areas from which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these, and other, 2005 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2005 report, Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

DUCKS

British Columbia ***(Breault and Watts, pers. comm.)***

The Cooperative Wetland Survey is an inter-agency project initiated in 1987 that aims to characterize abundance of breeding and migrating waterfowl in the wetlands of Interior British Columbia. The survey involves six replicated counts of waterbirds on each of approximately 400 wetlands located on private property, native, provincial and federal lands. Approximately 290 of these wetlands have been monitored consistently since 1988. For analytical purposes, those wetlands are referred to as "Trend Wetlands", as they allow long-term comparisons of waterfowl abundance over a fixed amount of habitat.

The winter of 2004/2005 was characterised by good snowpacks in the early part of the winter, follwed by rain and warm weather in the later part of the winter. Water levels of low elevation wetlands were higher than in 2004 but overall lower than average. Breeding habitat conditions were better than in May 2004 but remained overall poor.

Preliminary results indicated that the total number of ducks observed on Trend Wetlands in 2005 was 15% lower than in 2004 (also a drought year), and 16.5% below the (1988-2004) Long-Term Average (LTA). Total diving ducks were 17% lower than in 2004 and 9% below the LTA. Total dabbling ducks were 11% lower than in 2004 and 30% lower than the LTA.

The total number of duck breeding pairs was 19% lower than in 2004 and 16% lower than the LTA. For diving ducks, the number of breeding pairs was 20% lower than in 2004 , although virtually identical to the LTA. The total number of dabbling duck pairs was 19% lower than in 2004 and 33% lower than the LTA. Canada Goose total numbers were 30% lower than in 2004 and 4% below the LTA.

The counts are believed to reflect both an early, dry and warm spring and an improvement in wetland conditions over 2004 in Central BC. The dry and warm conditions observed in late April and early May were likely associated with an early migration of ducks nesting further north and with early breeding for some species.

This survey targets a fixed number of permanent and seasonal wetlands and the results are not adjusted with an annual index of pond availability. Work is currently under way to present the current data in terms of waterfowl density for wetlands of different sizes and for various ecological regions of the province. This information will be linked to a provincial estimate of wetland abundance (by size class) to produce province-wide breeding population estimates.

Prairie Canada ***(Caswell and Schuster, unpubl. rep., 2005)***

Significant increases in waterfowl populations throughout the southern Canadian Prairies were observed this spring, primarily due to improved wetland habitat conditions. Results from the 2005 waterfowl breeding population survey indicated that there are currently about 3.9 million ponds in the Prairies. This is an increase of 56% from last year, and 12% above the long-term survey average. Highlights of the spring survey include:

- Breeding ducks increased by 30% from 2004, but remain 6% below the long-term average.
- Pintail populations are estimated at 1.2 million, an increase of 79% from 2004.
- Dabbling duck populations increased by more than 34% from 2004.
- Mallards increased by 10% from 2004.
- Blue-winged teal increased 44% from 2004.
- Diving ducks increased by 38% from 2004.
- Canvasbacks are up by 32%, redheads by 22% and lesser scaup by 72%
- Canada goose populations are somewhat lower than 2004.

Eastern Canada ***(Gilliland, Bordage, Ross, Hick, Collins, pers. comm.)***

The boreal region of eastern Canada has been surveyed by helicopters since 1990 as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). From 1990-2005, trend analysis of breeding ground survey results (Collins, 2005) showed significant increases range-wide for pairs of Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Common and Hooded

Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, and Surf Scoters. The increase for Black Ducks were seen in strata 1 and 3. Blue-winged teal showed a significant decline across the survey area, but this species is an uncommon breeder in the boreal region of eastern Canada.

This year we hope to report for the first time population estimates for waterfowl in eastern Canada produced through consolidation of two data sets – the fixed-wing surveys flown by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the helicopter plot surveys. Those data will be presented in the November 2005 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

Gilliland pers. comm. - Spring conditions varied across the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. On the Avalon Peninsula, spring was cool and wet and the breeding season appeared to be delayed, elsewhere it was warm and dry, and the breeding season was unusually early. Ice melt was early and almost no ice was encountered in Newfoundland or Labrador. There were two preliminary trends of note. First, Black Duck numbers showed promising increases throughout the mid-1990s, however their numbers declined in 2000, and current breeding densities are near the lowest levels recorded. Secondly, large numbers of Surf Scoters have been observed in Labrador since 2003. In 2004, the first ever White-wing Scoters were observed, and the first Black Scoters observed in eastern Labrador (Black Scoters have been observed in this area on other surveys). Breeding densities in 2005 were slightly lower than 2004.

Hicks pers. comm. - The breeding waterfowl helicopter survey was carried out in Nova Scotia between 26 April and 02 May. The New Brunswick survey was started on 03 May and finished the 6th. The Gaspé plots were not flown by CWS-AR this year. Spring conditions in the Maritimes in 2005 were of average timing although less snow was encountered than on most previous surveys. All ice and snow were gone from the plots. This lack of snow and ice was particularly noticeable in northern New Brunswick where some ice cover in large lakes is common. Leaf-out was not well advanced at time of survey on any of the plots. Water level was average in many lakes and brooks, Timing of the survey was judged to be appropriate for Black Ducks based on the pair to single ratio. Spring 2005 started early and dry but the last three weeks of May were among the wettest and coolest on record. Overall the conditions at the time of survey were good. Preliminary analyses of the 2005 survey counts in the Maritimes are now underway. The number of indicated pairs of Black Ducks was higher than in 2004 in Nova Scotia, but numbers were down slightly in New Brunswick. Canada Geese in Nova Scotia were similar to 2004 but none were observed on plots in New Brunswick.

Bordage pers. comm. - In Québec, last summer (2004) was cool and wet resulting in average waterfowl production. Fall weather was normal, and winter precipitation and temperature were average. Spring 2005 was dry especially in the boreal forest. Temperatures were slightly below average in southern Québec and above normal values in northern Québec. Overall survey conditions in May and June were good except for forest fires at the end of the survey resulting in low visibility and 2 plots left unsurveyed. The 2005 waterfowl survey of the boreal forest in Québec was undertaken between May 2nd and June 4th. Population estimates were not available for this report but expected to be lower than 2004 for most species.

Ross pers. comm. - Spring arrived early in both central and northeastern Ontario with snow largely disappearing in early April. Warm temperatures continued throughout most of the month leading to anticipation of highly advanced habitat phenology throughout both areas. This did not transpire as conditions changed to cooler than normal late in April after which they approached usual level throughout May. Breeding phenology of waterfowl appeared essentially normal during our survey period as were viewing conditions. The abnormally early melt seemed to have had little influence on breeding ducks in the survey area unlike the response of the SJBP Canada Geese further north that nested much earlier that normal. Water levels appeared slightly higher than normal, probably the result of substantial rains late in April and briefly in mid-May. Winter snow levels throughout the survey areas were normal to slightly above normal.

A good breeding effort is anticipated as the habitat was available and in good condition during nest initiation, and there were no catastrophic events such as flooding or freezing during that period. A preliminary examination of survey data indicate good population levels. Conditions have continued to be good during the early brood rearing period.

GEESE

Geese and Swans in the western Canadian Arctic
(Hines, Raven, pers. comm.)

Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest at Banks Island. The number of Snow Geese nesting on Banks Island increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002.

The remaining western arctic Snow Geese nest at small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. The mainland populations have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. An aerial survey of the two mainland nesting areas (and more detailed ground counts at Anderson River) in June 2005 suggested that the nesting effort at both the Kendall Island and Anderson River Bird Sanctuaries was good compared to recent years. On Banks Island, local Inuvialuit residents reported that spring snow melt occurred very rapidly and earlier than usual and that large numbers of geese were nesting. Therefore, it is expected that production will be above average on Banks Island this year.

Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)

In the Western Arctic, White-fronted Geese nest mainly on the mainland. During aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Liverpool Bay, and Parry Peninsula area in June 2005, evidence pointed toward a good nesting effort for White-fronted Geese. It is expected that production of white-fronted geese should be average or above-average in 2005.

Canada Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)

Canada geese are far less abundant on the Western Arctic mainland than are white-fronted geese. Nevertheless, productivity of Canada Geese appears to have paralleled that of white-fronts in this area in the past, and a good nesting effort and average or above-average production is expected for 2005. Victoria Island, where many of SGPP Canada Geese in the Western Arctic breed, experienced a relatively early spring with good numbers of nesting geese observed by CWS biologists. Thus, overall productivity of Canada Geese from the Western Arctic should be about average or above-average for 2005.

Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the Western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2005 indicated good numbers of nesting swans And a relatively early nesting season. Thus, above-average production should be expected this year.

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese *(Baranyuk, pers. comm.)*

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists who have documented a decline from 120 000 nesting birds in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes, 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because all of these birds migrate through western Canada in fall and spring and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta (BC) and the nearby Skagit Delta (WA). V. Baranyuk reported a good year in 2005 for Wrangel Island Snow Geese. The main colony had 28,000 to 30,000 nests (similar to last year) and nest success is expected to be higher than last year. This is an unprecedented run of good breeding years on Wrangel Island, although the total spring estimates and the Fraser-Skagit winter population estimates have not appreciably changed over the last 2-3 years.

Geese in the central Canadian Arctic *(Alisauskas, pers. comm.)*

At Karrak Lake, in the Queen Maud Gulf, the mean nest initiation date from 1991 through 2003 was 10 June for Ross's Geese, and 9 June for Lesser Snow Geese. This year, nest initiation was about 10 June for both species. This represents a substantially earlier nesting effort compared to 2004, when mean nest initiation for both species was 18 June. Relative to a mean clutch size of 3.3 and 3.5 for Ross's and Snow Geese from 1991-2003, preliminary estimates of clutch size from a small subsample of nests at Karrak Lake in 2005 was 3.1 eggs/nest for Ross's (n=40) and 3.5 eggs/nest for Snow Geese (n=40). This is considerably higher than in 2004 when there were an average of 2 eggs/nest for Ross's (n=66) and 3.1 eggs/nest for Snow Geese (n=58).

The area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese at Karrak Lake increased from 177 km^2 used in 2003 to 201 km^2 in 2004. In 2005, this area (198 km^2) was about the same as in 2004. At the East McNaughton colony of light geese, about 90 km east of Karrak Lake, the area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese increased from 214 km^2 to 230 km^2. Weather conditions during incubation were highly variable, similar to last year. If favourable weather conditions persist during brood rearing, age ratios in the fall flight of Ross's Geese, Snow Geese, Whitefronted Geese and Short Grass Prairie Canada Geese from Queen Maud Gulf should be close to average in 2005.

The extent of the largest known nesting colonies of Ross's Geese and Snow Geese in the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary continues to

expand. Extensive helicopter reconnaissance in the sanctuary has resulted in detection of several new colonies in the sanctuary – mostly along the coast of Queen Maud Gulf - and disappearance of several small colonies up to 100 km inland. Thus there seems to have been an amalgamation of nesting light geese from many very small colonies into fewer, but much larger colonies. As well, helicopter surveys of Adelaide Peninsula and King William Island led to detection of previously unmapped or undocumented colonies of light geese. Some of these were substantial in size, and approached or exceeded 20 km in length (notably on the northwest portion of Adelaide Peninsula, on the northwest cost of King William Island near Erebus Bay, and east of the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary at Elliot Bay in Chantry Inlet. All in all, it appears that populations of light geese in the Central arctic continue to grow despite continental management efforts through increased hunting opportunities to control growth of the midcontinent population of Snow Geese.

Waterfowl in the eastern Canadian Arctic *(Gilchrist, Caswell, pers. comm.)*

The spring on Southampton Island was normal, with snow melt in mid June. Snow levels were initially high, but melted quickly as a result of several consecutive days of sunshine. Snow geese were nesting on schedule, according to Inuit egg collectors. Banding crews present in late July noted good production by all goose species.

Observations made during the photographic inventory of the lesser snow goose colony on the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak, Baffin Island, indicated high concentrations of nests at the southern end of Bowman Bay and at Corey Bay, which is the next bay to the west on the Foxe Peninsula. In contrast, nest densities were reduced between Bowman Bay and the Koukdjuak River, and were extremely low north of the River. In general, it appeared to be a relatively late spring, with poor conditions over most of the region during the nesting season. Conditions were worse further north in the Foxe Basin, where Airforce Island was still covered with snow and ice during the survey period.

Six Eastern High Arctic brant geese were marked in spring at a key staging area in Iceland with satellite transmitters. The progress of their migration can be viewed at :http://www.wwt.org.uk/supergoose/latestlocation.asp .

Greater Snow Geese *(Lefebvre, Gauthier pers. comm.)*

The annual spring photographic inventory methodology was changed beginning in 2004, in order to get a more accurate estimate in the face of the expanding spring staging distribution of Greater Snow Geese. Again in 2005, five aircraft were used) simultaneously during a single day of surveys. The preliminary estimate of the size of the 2005 spring staging population was 814,631 ± 59,131, which appears to represent continued stabilisation of the population growth. This estimate is about 100,000 birds fewer than last year, but is not the lowest number estimated recently (639,000 in 2002, but this was prior to the improved survey coverage). Accuracy of the estimate will be verified and examined in historical context in the November 2005 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds.

On Bylot Island, where there is a field crew conducting an intensive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction, snow cover and patterns of melt were highly variable throughout the breeding area. This led to great variation in nest initiation and clutch sizes, but overall, slightly below average production of young birds is expected. Production is also being affected by medium to high rates of predation as well as very poor weather conditions during the hatching period.

Breeding Conditions for geese in West Hudson Bay, McConnell River region, Nunavut *(J. Caswell, pers. comm.)*

In 2005, spring snow melt along the Hudson Bay coast near the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MCR) began 22 May. Tall grass prairie cackling (previously Canada) and lesser snow geese started arriving 20 May with Ross's geese starting to arrive 24 May. The nesting colony, located immediately north of the McConnell River is 20 square kilometres in area. Nests were initiated within the MCR colony by the end of May and incubation was underway by the first week of June. High volumes of spring runoff in 2005 prevented travel from Arviat which suppressed egg collection by local Inuit. Although the colony size was unchanged from last year, nest density was greater, resulting in a breeding population estimate of 95,000, and 12% growth from 2004. Peak lesser snow and Ross's goose hatch occurred around 24 June and 27 June. Nest success of both light goose species in 2005 was 85%. An obvious lack of some predators, fox and human, resulted in a productive year for geese nesting in the MCR.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese *(Walton and Hughes, 2005a and Walton and Abraham, 2005)*

The 2005 surveys on the mainland were flown under generally good weather conditions, with some wind problems in stratum 3; Akimiski Island was surveyed under excellent conditions. Spring arrived very early in northern Ontario, several weeks ahead of average. Nesting habitat was largely snow free by mid-April and all but the largest ponds were ice-free. Spring arrived so early that by the end of the survey period, some nests were hatching in stratum 3.

The 2005 spring population estimate for SJBP Canada Geese was 46,278, a decline of 54% compared to 2004. The number of breeding pairs on the declined by a similar amount. The authors indicated that the low numbers are likely the result of 1) poor survey timing, 2) use of a different aircraft, 3) high breeding propensity because of the very early spring, 4) fewer subadult geese because of the low production last year, and 5) possibility that the SJBP moult migration had already occurred. Many of these factors are related to the very early arrival of spring this year.

Given the excellent breeding conditions but poor timing of the survey, the authors felt that the numbers are a significant underestimate of reality. Assessments of nesting effort and hatching success indicated that, if the good conditions persist, 2005 should be an excellent production year for SJBP Canada Geese.

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese *(Walton and Hughes 2005b)*

The 2005 survey was flown under excellent weather conditions. All lines were completed before eggs began to hatch. We estimated that nests along the Hudson Bay coast to be in the second week of incubation and those in interior strata to be in the third week of incubation.

Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very early in 2005, with snow melt occurring a full month earlier than last year. The spring population estimate was 539,319, a 26% decline from 2004. This decrease is likely due to the smaller number of sub-adults, a result of relatively poor production in 2004. The breeding population estimate for 2005 was 344,907, an increase of 25% in comparison to last year. Moult-migrants did not begin arriving until late in the survey period, and are believed to have had little impact on the survey results.

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese *(Raedeke, Wollenberg and Lubinski, 2005)*

In 2005 the EPP breeding phenology was early to average in the southern part of the range, and average in the remainder. the latest on record (1976-2004). May temperatures were average and range-wide, vegetation, snow and ice conditions all indicated an early to normal spring.

The 2005 EPP estimate of 254 700 ± 30 900 geese was similar to the 2004 estimate. The number of geese observed in pairs (99 100 ± 15 800) was also similar to 2004. Geese observed as singles (62 500 ± 9 500) increased from 2004. The estimate of pairs plus singles (161 600 ± 21 100), the basis for EPP harvest management, was similar to levels in 2004. Numbers of productive geese (73 000 ± 10 700) increased from 2004 (48 100 ± 7 900). The estimate of 93 200 ± 24 700 geese in groups was lower than in 2004 (145 200 ± 32 300), by within the range of the past 5 years.

The 2005 singles and pairs estimate is near the 2000 EPP Plan objective of 145 000.

North Atlantic Canada Geese *(Gilliland, pers. comm.)*

The NAP breeding population continues to be surveyed by two methods each spring: the Eastern Waterfowl Helicopter Plot Survey (Black Duck Joint Venture Survey) and the USFWS fixed-wing transect survey. An expanded helicopter plot survey was initiated in 2001 when it became evident that neither the original plot distribution nor the fixed-wing transects adequately covered the breeding range of this population. The density of indicated pairs on this expanded survey was relatively low in 2005, however, clutch sizes were high and production may benefit from an unusually early spring.

Atlantic Canada Geese *(Harvey, Rodrigue, Bordage, Cotter, pers. comm.)*

The thirteenth consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted June 15 – 24, 2005. The survey covered the three regions shown previously to include the highest densities of nesting geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, and the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area was covered as part of the eastern Canada transect survey by the USFWS beginning in 2000.

Harvey and Rodrigue reported that spring temperatures in 2005 were extremely mild and

breeding areas were largely snow-free by early May. Water levels were low throughout the survey area, probably reflecting the early snowmelt.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was 162,395 (SE = 12,622) in 2005 compared to 174,793 (SE = 15,049) in 2004. The timing of the survey was somewhat late as geese with broods were observed on the last day of the survey. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as single geese (61%) was the highest recorded in the 13 years of the survey, indicating an excellent nesting effort. This finding is consistent with the large clutch sizes and high nest densities found on plots searched by helicopter crews.

The total population estimate (breeding pairs and grouped birds) was 1,140,755 birds (SE = 90,609) in 2005 compared to 1,014,616 birds (SE = 85,584) in 2004. The total population estimate may contain large numbers of molt migrant geese and should be interpreted cautiously.

In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated for Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula (Nuvavik) in northern Québec. A number of sites located in the coastal lowlands along Hudson Bay and Ungava Bay were ground searched for nests. This study became operational in 1997, and in 2005 was conducted between 7 and 13 June.

Snow melt was early to average in 2005, and by the time of the survey most nests were in mid-incubation; peak hatch should have occurred in the last week of June. Along Hudson Bay, the same 7 sites have been surveyed each year since 1997. The total number of nests and mean clutch size for all 7 sites in 2005 are 297 and 4.43, respectively. Up to this year, the best year in terms of productivity was 2003, and in 2005 both the total number of nests initiated and the mean clutch size was higher than in 2003—9% and 2%, respectively. Mean clutch size in 2005 was 9% higher than the 1997-2004 average. Furthermore, at the time of the survey in 2005 the percentage of nests still active was 94%. The same survey is conducted along Ungava Bay, but the number of sites surveyed annually since 1997 range between 3 and 6. In 2005, 5 sites were surveyed, and a total 116 nests were found. Of these, 68% were still active. Overall mean clutch size was 4.34, which is 11% higher than the 1997-2004 average. In conclusion, productivity of AP Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula should be good in 2005.

In the boreal forest, where AP Canada Geese are counted as part of an annual helicopter survey program, the 2005 population estimate was not available for this report, but was expected to be lower than in 2004 (Bordage, pers. comm.) The spring thaw was normal in 2005 but the temperature stayed cool and dry throughout the month of May and first week of June. The region covered by the eastern boreal forest survey is at the southern limit of the nesting range of AP Canada Geese.

Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international Black Duck harvest strategy that uses the principles of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been published in previous issues of the CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports. In fall 2004, U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Agencies agreed to work towards finalizing an adaptive harvest management approach for determining appropriate levels of harvest for Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S. This approach will be based on breeding ground survey information. Initially, models were based on wintering ground surveys, so some technical adjustments need to be made before they can be used. Therefore, we are now updating these models with the breeding pair information and expect to make significant progress towards implementation of an AHM approach for Black Ducks in the coming year.

The Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will keep the appropriate regulatory consultation bodies in Canada and United Sates informed of progress as we move toward implementation of adaptive harvest management for Black Ducks. These bodies will also be informed if alternative strategic frameworks for Black Duck hunting regulations come under consideration.

More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site:

http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of Mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and of Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled "*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1997) and "*The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1998). The working groups concluded that the primary causes of the increase of Snow Goose populations were human induced. Improved nutrition from agricultural practices and safety in refuges has resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates

of Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the vegetation communities on which they and other species rely at staging areas and on the breeding grounds. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing Snow Goose populations.

Regulation

Several management actions are being undertaken concurrently to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One action involves increasing the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of habitat conservation measures. Beginning in 1999 an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations created special conservation measures during which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use special methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Québec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations where special conservation measures were implemented were determined through consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities. For example, across the Arctic in 2004, over 14,000 Lesser Snow Geese and 13,000 Ross's Geese were banded as part of a program to monitor white goose survival rates and harvest characteristics. Since 1997, more than 45,000 Snow and Ross Geese have been banded to assist in meeting these research and management objectives (D. Caswell, pers. comm.).

The special conservation measures appear to have been successful in increasing harvest rates for Greater Snow Geese. The estimated harvest rates of adults (based on regular-season harvest in Canada and the U.S., and including the special conservation seasons which are in effect in Canada only) ranged from 10 to 15% in each year since 1998/99. These are much higher than the rates achieved during 1985-1997 (average harvest rate of 6%), a period of rapid population growth, and similar to harvest rates during 1975-1984 (11%) when the population was relatively small and stable (G. Gauthier, Laval University, unpubl.).

For Lesser Snow Geese, continental harvest has increased since hunting regulations were liberalized beginning in 1999. However, preliminary estimates of the adult survival rates remain high.

Proposal for 2006-2007

Proposals regarding special conservation measures in 2006-2007 will be presented for discussion in the November 2005 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds and for a period of formal public consultation in the Canada Gazette.

Hunting Regulations for the 2005-2006 Season

The regulations in effect for 2005/2006 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor in Council on June 6, 2005.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Harvest restrictions for eiders were first introduced in 1997 to address a perceived decline of Northern Common Eiders over-wintering in Newfoundland, and to protect the relatively small number of American Eiders that bred in insular Newfoundland. Since then, significant resources have been directed towards assessing the status of Eider ducks in the north-west Atlantic. Results suggest that the population of Northern Common Eider that over-winters in eastern North America is stable to increasing, and more abundant than previous assessments suggested. American Common Eiders that breed along the north coast of Newfoundland have shown strong growth, while numbers breeding along the north-east and south coasts of Newfoundland remain small.

It was proposed in the 2004 December report (*Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*), to ease the restrictions on eider harvest in Newfoundland for the coming season, based on larger than expected population counts in the previous winter, and other indices that suggested the population had responded well to management measures. However, extreme climate conditions in winter 2005 caused large numbers of eiders to be

restricted to small areas of open water where they were very vulnerable to hunting. The birds experienced additional mortality due to oil spills in the region in 2005. Thus, it has been decided that the restrictive regulations will remain in place for the coming season.

In some winters, such as the one experienced in early 2005, heavy ice conditions make sea ducks very vulnerable to high harvest. Should these conditions re-occur in 2006, the Canadian Wildlife Service may decide to implement partial closures in affected zones. In this case, there will be announcements in local newspapers and on radio.

Prince Edward Island

There are no changes to the regulations for the 2005-06 hunting season.

Nova Scotia

There are no changes to the regulations for the 2005-06 hunting season.

New Brunswick

There are no changes to the regulations for the 2005-06 hunting season.

Quebec

Canada goose

The early Canada Goose season in District C, D and E was modified. Hunting is permitted (on farmlands only), from September 1 until the opening of the general waterfowl hunting season, which occurs on the third Saturday of September. In order to respect the 107 hunting days limit set by the law, the hunting season ends on December 16. This change should assist in increasing opportunities for hunting of temperate-breeding geese.

No-hunting zones

The Canadian Wildlife Service will continue to review the status of certain no-hunting zones in Québec. At the time of initial designation, the zones were intended to provide waterfowl with a resting area, to protect certain species or to consolidate the protection of some areas. However, changes in the number of hunters, the status of certain populations which have now become more abundant, as well as the multitude of municipal regulations limiting the use of firearms, have led to a review of their status. In 2005 the no-hunting zone of Côte de Beaupré Ouest is being removed.

Ontario

Canada Goose

Regulations in Ontario seek to maximize the harvest of the rapidly expanding temperate-breeding population of Canada Geese while restricting the take of the northern-breeding Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) whose numbers are presently at low but stable levels.

In the case of temperate-breeding Canada Geese, harvest has been increased through the implementation of special seasons before and after the regular waterfowl hunting season. Over the course of the past year, we examined opportunities for additional seasons and assessed the effectiveness of those presently in place. As a result of this process, the following changes are being implemented:

1) An early season is expanded throughout all of central district (WMUs 46 – 59). Presently this area has the greatest rate of increase in goose breeding density, and a concomitant rise in nuisance and damage complaints.

2) The January special season in Southern District is discontinued and the days applied to the end of the regular waterfowl hunting season in late December and early January. Hunter success was generally very low in mid-January, probably because cold conditions and snow cover limited the movement of the geese.

3) The early season dates in WMUs 70 and 71 are adjusted to be the same as those in WMUs 68 and 69. These two groups of WMUs share common boundaries on either the Bay of Quinte or the Trent River. Having the same early season dates will reduce confusion and facilitate enforcement.

Limiting SJBP harvest has mostly been accomplished by restricting the bag in areas used by these geese during migration. One area with such a restriction is composed of WMUs 23 -32 in Northern District where the bag has been limited to 3 from the usual 5. In 2005, the limit is raised to 3 for WMU 32 as it is at the western edge of the migration corridor and most of it is covered by the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve where hunting is not permitted. An examination of the potential impacts of all of the proposed regulation changes on SJBP harvest suggested that any increase in harvest would be minimal.

Manitoba

Canada Goose (Eastern Prairie Population)

A delayed spring in northern Manitoba in 2004 resulted in a drastic reduction in productivity in

Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) geese nesting in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. EPP geese migrate through the Interlake region of Manitoba and represent between 50 and 70 percent of the harvest of Canada geese in the region. Manitoba is responsible for 25% to 35% of the harvest of this population in the Mississippi Flyway. Band recovery information indicates the key harvest areas for EPP geese in Manitoba are Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 25B, 25A and 25, which combined account for >70% of all EPP recoveries in Manitoba. Of this harvest, non-resident non-Canadian (NRNC) hunters account for more than 50% of the harvest of EPP geese in the Interlake region.

An International Management Plan for EPP geese calls for a 25 percent reduction in harvest when the population falls to low triggering levels or there is a bust in production; the 2004 spring caused just such a reduction in production. Other jurisdictions implemented restrictions for the 2004 fall season but because of the requirements of the regulatory process in Canada, restrictions could not be implemented in time for the 2004 fall season. The EPP Management Plan allows for Manitoba to react the year following a bust in production.

For the 2005 hunting season, Non Residents of Canada (NRNC) will be subjected to an increase in the area of restriction from GHA 25B only in 2004 to GHA 25, 25A & 25B, and a bag limit of 3 CAGO/day in those areas. In addition, morning-only hunting is extended to the dates September 26 to October 14 inclusive in GHAs 25, 25A, 25B, 33, 34A & 35A in 2005. Dates for morning-only hunting for NRNC hunters in GHAs 13A, 14, 14A, Part 16, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 20, 21A, 23A and the remainder of Game Bird Hunting Zone (GBHZ) 4 (that is, exclusive of GHAs 25, 25A, 25B, 33, 34A & 35) will be from September 26 to October 7 inclusive.

Saskatchewan

There are no regulatory changes for the 2005-2006 hunting season.

Alberta

There are no regulatory changes for the 2005-2006 hunting season.

British Columbia

Ducks, Coot, and Snipe Season, Snow and Ross' Geese Season, and Greater White-fronted Goose Season

In Hunting District 1 and 2 minor date adjustments are made to the regular hunting season to provide for traditional weekend openings. For Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5, and for Snow and Ross's Geese only, the seasons are: October 8, 2005 to January 2, 2006 and February 21 to March 10, 2006.

Pacific Population of Western Canada Goose

Over the last few years, a number of strategies including the introduction of multiple hunting seasons ("split seasons") have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of resident Canada Geese. The current opening and closing dates for each split season are maintained in Management Districts 1 and 8. There is an adjustment of the opening and/or closing dates for each split season in Management Districts 2 and 3, as follows:

District No. 2:

For Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive; 2-9, 2-10 and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive:
October 8, 2005 to January 20, 2006
For Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18 and 2-19 only:
September 10 to September 18, 2005
October 8 to November 27, 2005
December 17, 2005 to January 2, 2006
February 11 to March 10, 2006

For Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only:
September 10 to December 23, 2005

District No. 3:

For Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36 and 3-37 only:
September 10 to September 20, 2005
October 1 to December 23, 2005
March 1 to March 10, 2006
September 3 and 4.

Nunavut

There are no regulatory changes for the 2005-2006 hunting season.

Northwest Territories

There are no regulatory changes for the 2005-2006 hunting season.

Yukon Territory

There are no regulatory changes for the 2005-2006 hunting season.

Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Motion-winged, spinning-winged and motorized decoys

Motion-winged decoys are increasingly popular for waterfowl hunting, and there are many reports of their ability to significantly increase hunter success. Because of the increasing use of such decoys, and few actual estimates of their effect on harvest rates, the Canadian Wildlife Service conducted a study in the falls of 2001 and 2002 to evaluate hunter success. Caswell and Caswell (2004) showed that during marsh hunts, mallards were 1.9 times more likely to fly within gun range (<40m), the mean number of mallards harvested/hour/hunter was 5 times greater, and the crippling rate was 1.7 times lower when using a spinning-winged decoy as compared to conventional decoys only. The effects were even greater in field hunting situations: mallards were 6.4 times as likely to fly within gun range, mean number harvested/hour/hunter was 33 times greater, and the crippling rate was 3.7 times lower when using the motion winged decoy than without it (Caswell and Caswell, 2004). Similar research is being conducted in several US states and early results corroborate this effect on hunting success.

More information is required on the prevalence of the use of these decoys in order to understand if this increased success rate is reflected in the total seasonal harvest. The proportion of hunters in Canada that use motion-winged decoys is unknown. It is also unclear if hunters having more success by using special decoys will simply spend less time in the field hunting, or if the harvest rate will actually increase. The National Harvest Survey monitors total harvest and hunting activity but it cannot tease apart the success of hunters using motion-winged decoys from that of hunters using more traditional techniques. If necessary a special survey will be designed to gain further insight on the effect of motion-winged decoys on total harvest.

A Missouri survey of hunters' opinions about motorized decoys (David Graber, pers. comm.) found that 58.2% approved of the use of motion-winged decoys only if there were no affect on the season length or bag limit. Of the remaining hunters, 10% were not in favour, based on feelings about fair chase, and another 10.2% were not in favour because they it felt it detracted from traditional duck hunting methods. About 9.5% of hunters surveyed were in favour of the use of motorized decoys, even if the seasons were affected. The final 12.1% had no opinion.

At this time CWS has not reached any conclusion, and will continue to evaluate the need to regulate the use of motion-winged or other motorized decoys.

Hunting from a vehicle for hunters with physical disabilities

The Field and Stream Association for Manitobans with Disabilities has contacted the Canadian Wildlife Service requesting that an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations be considered to allow the use of a vehicle while hunting migratory birds. The association reported that the provincial hunting regulations in Manitoba had been modified to allow a permanently disabled hunter to discharge a firearm from a stationary vehicle while hunting for big game.

Enquiring about other provincial approaches, CWS found that the question of hunting by persons with disabilities is a complex situation that is being handled differently in different provincial jurisdictions. In some instances the discharge of a firearm from a vehicle is considered to be strictly a safety issue and it has therefore been prohibited for all persons. In many cases, however, provincial authorities provide an exception either through administrative procedures and/or through regulations. In those instances, the province has usually developed an approach to identify who is eligible.

Preliminary enquiries suggest that a change could be made to the Migratory Birds Regulations that would refer to exemptions provided by the provincial jurisdictions where they exist. CWS is concerned that measures for the retrieval of game birds be accounted for.

Addition of a new non toxic shot

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* and the *Wildlife Area Regulations* were amended on May 3, 2005, to authorize the possession and use of a new non-toxic shot, called "tungsten-bronze-iron shot", for hunting migratory game birds. There are now a number of alternatives to lead shot permitted for use in Canada, including bismuth shot, steel shot, tin shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-matrix shot, tungsten-nickel-iron shot and tungsten-polymer shot, and the recently approved tungsten-bronze-iron shot.

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Walton, L.R., and J. Hughes. 2005b. Preliminary Spring Survey Results for MVP Canada Geese - 2005. Unpubl. Rep. of the Ontario MNR and the Can. Wildl. Serv. (Ontario Region).

Appendix A.

2005-2006 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/pub/summ/index.html

Environment Canada / Canadian Wildlife Service
Environnement Canada / Service canadien de la faune

Newfoundland and Labrador

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

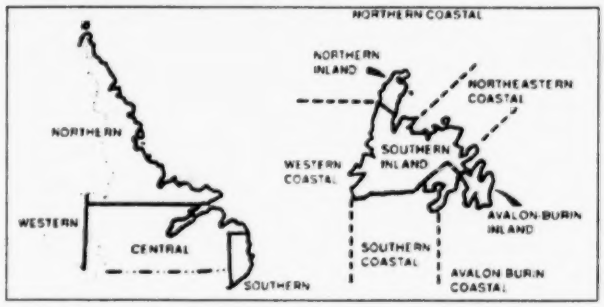
Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1201
Lewisporte, Newfoundland A0G 3A0
Tel.: (709) 535-0601
Fax: (709) 535-2743
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length and bag limit restrictions implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and mergansers remain in effect. Note that in some winters, such as experienced in early 2005, heavy ice conditions make sea ducks very vulnerable to high harvest. Should these conditions reoccur in 2006, the Canadian Wildlife Service may decide to implement partial closures in affected zones. In this case, there will be announcements in local newspapers and on radio.

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

Reminder: it is illegal to hunt migratory birds, including sea ducks, from a power boat unless the motor is not in operation and all forward progress of the boat has ceased. This regulation does not apply to persons hunting murres (turrs).

Attention murre (turr) hunters: In the 2005-06 season, **all** hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murres remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulation described below does not apply to murres/turrs.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turrs), and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

CRIME STOPPERS
Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks****)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters
All Coastal Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All Inland Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	No open season

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6(c)	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12(d)	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.
(c) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(d) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)**

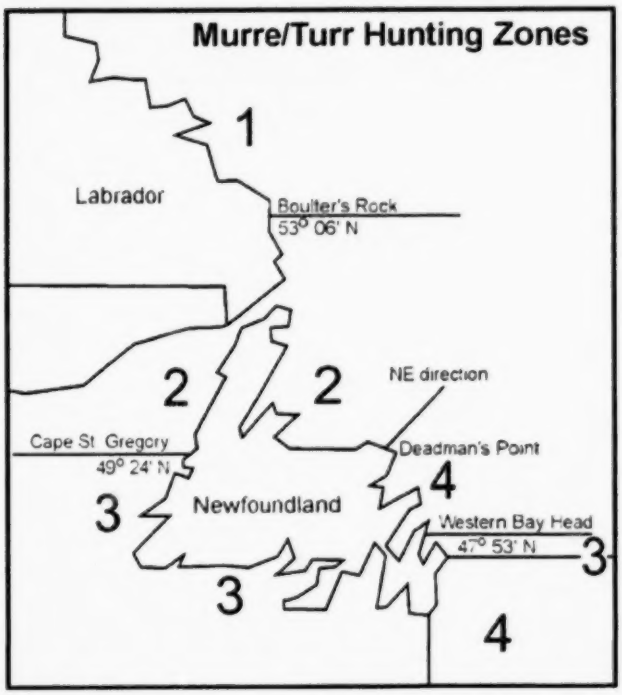
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6	6(a)	5	10
Possession	12	12(b)	10	20

(a) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(b) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 7 to January 21
Zone No. 3	November 24 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 2 to January 10 February 2 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bags	20
Possession	40

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Environment Canada / Canadian Wildlife Service — Environnement Canada / Service canadien de la faune

Prince Edward Island

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5032
Fax: (506) 364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 17	First Monday of October to second Saturday of December	Last Monday in September to second Saturday in December

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallards, Mallard - American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be Mallards, Mallard - American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
5th Floor, Queen's Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 2N6
Tel.: (902) 426-1188
Fax: (902) 426-6434
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions.

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- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

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Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Oldsquaw**, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Bufflecheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 24	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 24	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 2 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 14	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 24	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 14	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis.
"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3.
"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

** Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

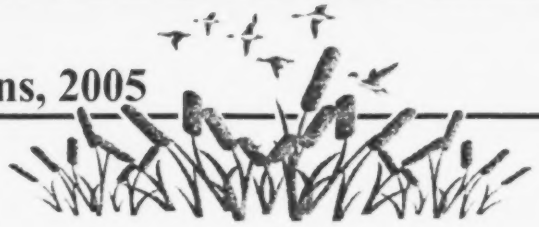
Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5032
Fax: (506) 364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

Hunting Zones

Zone No.1
Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2
The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, and snipe	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	September 17	October 15 to January 3	February 1 to February 25	September 15 to November 30
Zone No. 2	September 17	October 1 to December 17	No additional season	September 15 to November 30

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw,* eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	4(c)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks.
(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25; not more than four eiders may be taken daily.
(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long tailed Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*

*In Quebec, these signs also identify no-hunting zones.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141, route de l'Église
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5
Tel.: 1 800 463-4311
Fax: (418) 649-6475
www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. While hunting, it is obligatory for hunters to carry their permits with them. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2005-2006 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

NOTE
Waterfowler Heritage Day is September 10 for districts B, C, D and E; September 17 for districts F, G, H, I and J. The opening hunting date for ducks is September 17 for districts B, C, D and E; September 24 for districts F, G, H, I, and J. The non-hunting area of Côte de Beaupré west has been abolished.

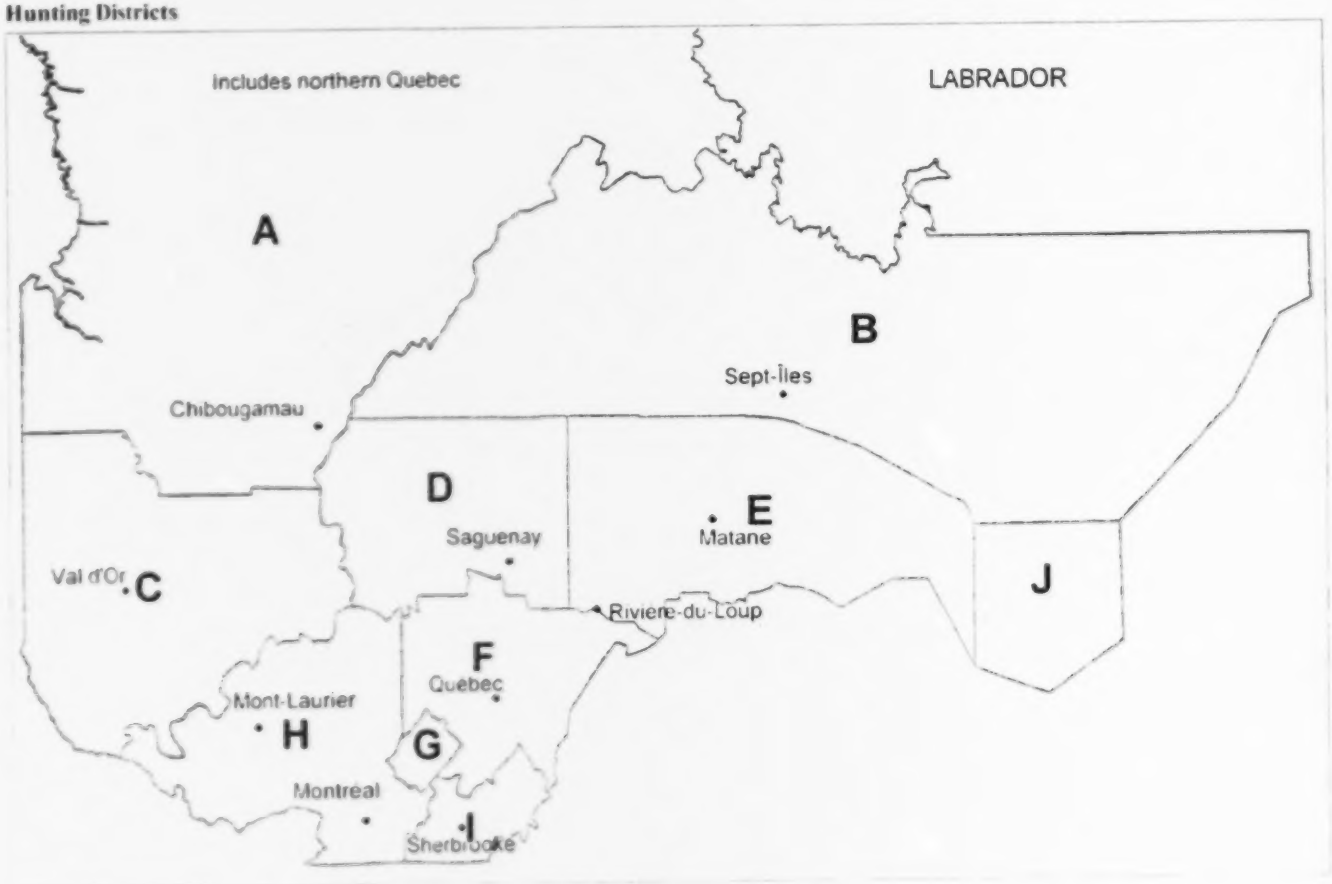
OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock and snipe WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks, and Long-tailed Ducks*), geese (other than Canada and Snow geese), and snipe	Canada Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks*	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock
A	N.A.	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10
B	Sept. 10	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14(b)	No open season	Sept. 10 to Dec. 22
C, D and E	Sept. 10	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 16(a) Sept. 17 to Dec. 21	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26
F, G, H, and I	Sept. 17(d)	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 23(a) Sept. 24 to Dec. 21	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26	Sept. 17 to Dec. 26
J	Sept. 17	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26

(a) In Districts C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, hunting for Canada Geese is allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District B along the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Long-tailed Ducks are from October 1 to October 24 inclusive and from November 15 to February 5 inclusive.
(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone # 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 between Pointe Jureux (St. Irenee) and Gros Cap a l'Aigle (St. Fidele) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone # 21.
(d) In Districts F, G, H and I, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(d)(f)	5(f)	20(f)	4(f)	8(e)(f)	10(f)
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(d)	10	60	8	16	20

(a) Not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F, and J.
(b) Not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts G, H, and I. Between November 1 and December 26, not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts G, H, and I (only lying east of Gatineau River).
(c) Not more than two Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts A, B, C, D, E, and J.
(d) Not more than one Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two in Districts F, G, H, and I.
(e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily.
(f) Not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowler Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) continue to apply within this limit.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2005–2006 federal permits.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District B	September 17 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
Districts C and D	April 1 to May 31(a), September 6 to September 16(a), and September 17 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District E	April 1 to May 31(a), September 6 to September 16(a), and September 17 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
Districts F, G, H, and I	April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 23(a), and September 24 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District J	September 24 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)

(a) Hunting is allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between Forgues Street at Berthier-sur-Mer and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality.
(c) In District G, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1 000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.
(d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(e) Hunting with bait and hunting in a bait crop area are permitted if the Regional Director of Environmental Conservation of Environment Canada has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3 of the Migratory Birds Regulations.
(f) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded Snow Goose calls, the decoys must represent white phase Snow Geese.

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service / Service canadien de la faune

Ontario

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6
(905) 336-6410
www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife_e.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the declining use of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted in the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shore, in the shoreline marsh, or on a dock within 20 metres of the shore.

Hunting Districts

1. **Hudson–James Bay District**
   Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83° 45' and north of latitude 51°
2. **Northern District**
   Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83° 45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45
3. **Central District**
   Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59
4. **Southern District**
   Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, geese (other than Canada Geese)	Canada Geese*	Woodcock
1. Hudson-James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 17 to Dec. 20	Sept. 6 to Dec. 20	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 24 to Dec. 20(g)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 17(a)(g) and Sept. 10 to Sept. 23(b)(g) and Sept. 24 to Jan. 4(c)(g) and Sept. 24 to Jan. 5(d)(g) and Nov. 1 to Jan. 5(e)(g) and Feb. 21 to Feb. 28(f)(g)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20(g)

(a) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive.

(b) In Wildlife Management Units 62, 63 (excluding any part in Renfrew County), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), and 66 to 71 inclusive.

(c) In Wildlife Management Units 62 to 71 inclusive.

(d) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 72 to 93 inclusive, and 95.

(e) In Wildlife Management Unit 94.

(f) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 62, 63 (excluding any part in Renfrew County), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive.

(g) No person shall hunt migratory birds on the following Sundays during the hunting season in the Southern District: from September 11 to January 1, and February 26. These Sunday exclusions do not apply, and Sunday hunting is permitted, in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, in the Township of Haldimand, in the County of Northumberland, and in that portion in Wildlife Management Unit 63 of the County of Renfrew. Sunday exclusions do not apply to falconers who may hunt only ducks on Sundays from September 25 to December 18 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese* (other than Snow Geese) and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe, and Common Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)	5(d)(e)(f)(g)	10	10	8
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)	10(d)(e)(f)(g)	40	20	16

(a) Not more than one American Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two American Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern Districts and not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four American Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson-James Bay and Northern Districts.

(b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.

(c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.

(d) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson-James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 31 inclusive and 37 to 41 inclusive from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.

(e) Not more than two Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than four Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from November 1 to January 5 inclusive.

(f) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 inclusive and 93 from September 24 to October 31 inclusive.

(g) Three additional Canada Geese may be taken daily and fourteen additional Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9 inclusive; in Central District from September 6 to September 16 inclusive; in Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive from September 6 to September 17 inclusive; in Wildlife Management Units 62, 63 (excluding any part in Renfrew County), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell) and 66 to 71 inclusive from September 10 to September 23 inclusive; and in Wildlife Management Units 60A to 62 inclusive, 63 (excluding any part in Renfrew County), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive from February 21 to February 28 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

SUMMARY OF CANADA GOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ONTARIO

Daily Limit	**8**	**8**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**2**	**8**
Poss. Limit	24	24	10	10	10	10	4	24
Start	6 Sept.	10 Sept.	24 Sept.	1 Nov.	24 Sept.	24 Sept.	1 Nov.	21 Feb.
Close	17 Sept.	23 Sept.	31 Oct.	5 Jan.	4 Jan.	5 Jan.	5 Jan.	28 Feb.
WMU								
60A	X					X		X
61	X					X		X
62		X			X			X
63		Except part in Renfrew Co.			X			Except part in Renfrew Co.
64A		X			X			X
64B		X			X			X
65		Except Prescott-Russell			X			Except Prescott-Russell
66		X			X			X
67		X			X			X
68		X			X			X
69		X			X			X
70		X			X			X
71		X			X			X
72A	Except Haldimand					X		Except Haldimand
72B	X					X		X
73	X					X		X
74	X					X		X
75	X					X		X
76	X					X		X
77	X					X		X
78	X					X		X
79	X					X		X
80	X					X		X
81	X					X		X
82	X		X	X				X
83	X		X	X				X
84	X		X	X				X
85	X		X	X				X
86	X		X	X				X
87	X					X		X
88	X					X		X
89	X					X		X
90	Except South Walsingham					X		Except South Walsingham
91	X					X		X
92	X					X		X
93	X		X	X				X
94	X						X	
95	X					X		
Season Table Footnotes	a	b	d	d	e	d	e	f
Limits Table Footnotes	g	g	f				e	g

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

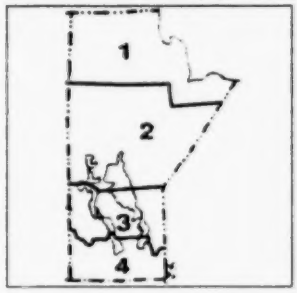
Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 150
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2
(204) 983-5263
www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecb/index.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Game Bird Hunting Zones



Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Area	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)
Zone 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 26 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 19 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 26 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 19 to Nov. 30(b)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 6 and 6A only.
(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and white-fronted geese, and Brant)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5(e)	5	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	80	15(f)	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(b) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(e) Except that in provincial Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 25, 25A, and 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.
(f) Except that in provincial GHAs 25, 25A, and 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.

NOTE
The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the North limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (September 26) to October 14 inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2005–2006 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)
Zones 2, 3, and 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.
(b) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, during the April–May and August 15–31 periods only, decoys must represent white or blue phase Snow Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

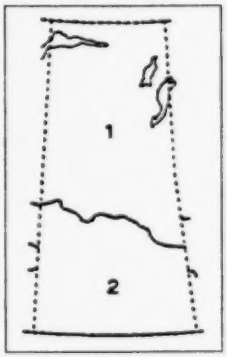
The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
(306) 975-4919
www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecb/index.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1 to 42 inclusive and 44 to 46 inclusive.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, any migratory bird for which there is an open season may also be taken.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2005–2006 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.
(b) Except White-fronted Geese; the season for residents of Saskatchewan for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.
(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.
(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE
The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Saskatchewan in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longtitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

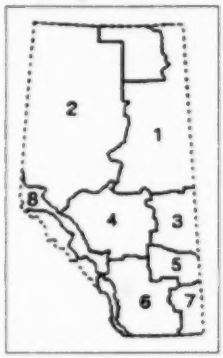
The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
4999-98 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
(780) 951-8891
www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecb/index.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Zones



Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Coots and snipe	Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe
Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8*	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones 5, 6, and 7*	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* **"Zone No. 1"** means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 529, 530 to 532, and 841.
"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349, 350 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539, 540, 542, and 544.
"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.
"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.
"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160 to 163, 164, and 166.
"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 107, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.
"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.
"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service / Service canadien de la faune

British Columbia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
(604) 940-4710
www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/EN/Wildlife/about/index.shtml

Hunting Districts

1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Sept. 10 and 11(b) Oct. 1 and 2(p)	Oct. 8 to Jan. 20	Oct. 8 to Jan. 20	Oct. 8 to Jan. 20(a) Sept. 15 to Oct. 22(b)(h) Dec. 15 to Jan. 25(b)(h) Feb. 14 to March 10(b)(h)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 3 and 4(j)(r) Oct. 1 and 2(q)	Oct. 8 to Jan. 20(g)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(j)	Oct. 8 to Jan. 2(d) Feb. 21 to Mar. 10(d)	Oct. 8 to Jan. 20(e) Sept. 10 to Sept. 18(f)(h) Oct. 8 to Nov. 27(f)(h) Dec. 17 to Jan. 2(f)(h) Feb. 11 to Mar. 10(f)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)(j)	Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(h)(i)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(s)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 3 and 4	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(k) Sept. 10 to Sept. 20(l) Oct. 1 to Dec. 23(l) Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(l)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(t)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 3 and 4	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 10 and 11	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 17 and 18(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 3 and 4	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(o) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(c) Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(c) Feb. 21 to March 10(c)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.
(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(c) For Canada Geese only.
(d) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.
(e) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese only.
(f) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.
(h) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.
(i) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.
(j) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
(k) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive for White-fronted and Canada geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive for White-fronted Geese only.
(l) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29 , 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive and for Canada Geese only.
(m) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.
(n) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.
(o) For White-fronted Geese only.
(p) For Ducks, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, for Canada Geese.
(q) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for ducks and Canada Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.
(r) For ducks and Canada Geese only.
(s) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.
(t) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(e)(k)	5(g)(i)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(b)(d)(f)(l)	10(h)(j)	20	20	10	10

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.
(d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.
(e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.
(f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.
(g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese can be taken daily.
(j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese can be in possession daily.
(k) Not more than two may be Harlequin Ducks.
(l) Not more than four may be Harlequin Ducks.

Canada

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Environment Canada / Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service / Service canadien de la faune

Nunavut

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

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Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730
www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecb/index.en.html

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2005–2006 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(a)

(a) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(c)	5(a)(b)(c)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
(b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily, and not more than 10 may be possessed.
(c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.
(d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.
(e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, five Canada Geese, and five other geese.
(f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, 10 Canada Geese, and 10 other geese.
(g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.
(h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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Summary

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Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730
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Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7
(867) 667-4597
www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/EN/Wildlife/about/index.shtml

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°

Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

(a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)